

WASHINGTON, D.C. - David Crabbe, a longtime fisherman from Carmel, has been appointed to the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The Pacific Council is one of eight regional bodies that manage offshore fisheries. The Pacific Council is responsible for fisheries off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington.

"David is a perfect fit for this position, with the heart of a fisherman and the brain of a scientist," said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel), who wrote a letter supporting Crabbe's appointment.

In his letter, Rep. Farr wrote: "David continues to be an important leader on the conservation issues facing today's fisheries, especially the urgent need for achieving sustainability so that our nation's fishing heritage and coastal economic vitality can be perpetuated."

The councils, established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, create comprehensive plans for marine fish stocks in their regions. Among their goals is to fulfill the act's charge to end overfishing of 41 stocks by 2010. NOAA's Fisheries Service works closely with the councils during plan development and also reviews, approves and implements the management plans developed by the councils.

"We welcome the new and returning appointees to these important councils. They play a critical role in ensuring sustainable marine fisheries, which are in turn vitally important to coastal communities and coastal economies," said NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco. "This is an exciting and challenging time for fishery management, and the councils' efforts ensure that the public is well represented in this process. These are the experts -- fishermen and scientists, leaders in their regions -- who will help us achieve sustainable fisheries and maintain vibrant fishing communities."

Council members represent a variety of interests, from commercial and recreational fisheries to environmental concerns to academia. A total of 72 members are appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. Crabbe was part of a group of 30 who were named or reappointed for the next

term, which begins August 11.

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